



the Grebe

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2010

Mission of The Friends of
Deer Flat:

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations

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Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Welcomes New Staff!!!

One of the many perks about working for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the opportunity to live and work all over the country. As such, refuge staff does change from time to time. Elaine Johnson was the refuge manager at Deer Flat NWR for ten years until recently moving to Arizona. The new refuge manager is Jennifer Brown-Scott. Originally from western Massachusetts, Jennifer obtained degrees in Biology and Communications from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. In 1999, she moved to Connecticut and accepted the Outdoor Recreation Planner position at Stewart B. McKinney NWR. She was selected to be the Assistant Refuge Manager at the same refuge one year later. While at Stewart B. McKinney NWR, Jennifer worked with local residents to start two Friends groups. In 2003, Jennifer transferred to Ridgefield NWR in Washington State as the Refuge Manager and became the Deputy Project Leader of the Ridgefield NWR Complex in 2008. At Ridgefield NWR, Jennifer began a new and improved grazing program and obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money with the help of the Friends of Ridgefield NWR. While working in Washington, Jennifer and her husband (William) had their own fishing guide business on the Oregon coast.

Jennifer, William, their cat, and their two dogs have settled in Caldwell and look forward to learning more about their new community. Jennifer began her position as Project Leader/Refuge Manager on September 19th and her husband hopes to continue creating hand carved knives and join the local art community. In their off time, Jennifer and her husband enjoy camping, fishing, hunting and wildlife photography. Jennifer is very excited about working with partners, refuge users, and the general public on the upcoming 15 year master plan for the Refuge (CCP).

The assistant manager position has been vacant for the past two years after Todd Fenzl left to fill the zone officer law enforcement position. Luckily, Todd is still in the area sharing his knowledge and expertise as he has lived and worked in the area for twenty-five years. The assistant manager position was recently filled by Kendra Willett. Kendra arrived in

(continued on page 4)

I am honored to be the President of the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge in 2010. Last year was a very busy year for our organization and in the upcoming year we have more work to do and, of course, more fun.

I want to say 'thank-you' to the current Board for all the work they have done during the past year. I am looking forward to working with the new Board. I would also like to say 'thank-you' to our members, who have been so supportive and have kept the Friends moving forward.

Kris Horton has been our "litter-lift" organizer and has volunteered to continue to work on this project. Thanks to Kris, the Friends' area on the Refuge is well cared for. Denise Hughes keeps us informed with a quarterly newsletter and we are fortunate to have the use of her talent for another year. Cathy Eells keeps our Grebe's Nest open and running. Cathy became a new grandmother on Halloween day (what a sweet treat) and will be busy with her grandson, while continuing to look after our bookstore.

The Friends are involved in several on-going projects at the Refuge, such as selling and placing monogrammed bricks in the hummingbird/butterfly garden, caring for the photo-blind and feeding the birds during the winter, stocking the Grebe's nest and publishing the newsletter just to name a few. I am excited about our new projects for the coming year. The Friends will be working with the Refuge's AmeriCorps volunteer on a web-cam project. We are also researching ways to get more school children to the Refuge. As you can see we still need volunteers. If you are interested in learning more or helping with any of these projects, please call or e-mail me. Volunteering at the Refuge is a rewarding experience for me and I think you will find it just as rewarding.

Thank-you all for all that you do for the Deer Flat Refuge!

Noreen Tripp, Pres. FDFWR
208-936-3130, tonotripp@cableone.net

Support the Idaho Watchable Wildlife Program



Idaho Birding Trail
175 birding sites throughout Idaho. Full color maps and photos, driving directions and best times to bird!
\$5

4 pack of Edson Fichter notecards. Images depict his unusual technique - pencil drawing on stippleboard from projected slide images.
\$3

Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide
100 sites to view birds, fish, and mammals. Maps and site descriptions included.
\$10

Buy all 3 for only \$15!

To purchase, send a check to: IDFG Watchable Wildlife Program • PO Box 25 • Boise, ID 83707

Mark your calendar...

Upcoming Events

Lecture Series

Tuesday, January 12th, 7:00 p.m. - **Salmon: Swimming an Upstream Battle**

Scout Days

Saturday, January 9th, 1 to 3 p.m.

Scout Days

Saturday, February 6th, 1 to 3 p.m.

Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 9th, 7:00 p.m. - **Turn Kitchen & Yard Waste into "Black Gold"**

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 13th, 10 a.m. - Participate in a national bird count

Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 13th, 6 p.m. - Meet at Refuge Visitor Center

An Evening at the Refuge

Saturday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. - Meet at Refuge Visitor Center (see page 12 for additional information)

Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 9th, 7:00 p.m. - **Every Butte has a Story - Local Geology**

Scout Days

Saturday, March 13th, 1 to 3 p.m.

Scout Day Information. Sign up your wolf, bear, and webelo Cub Scouts or Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts to earn wildlife-related badges. Pre-registration is required. Call 467-9278 or e-mail deerflat@fws.gov to pre-register.

Upcoming Refuge Events:

For more information on all events, contact the refuge at 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov

The **Grebe** newsletter is published quarterly. If you have an article or photo that you would like to be included in a future newsletter, please contact Denise Hughes at idahobirder@hotmail.com

Idaho from Fort Myers, Florida in July of this year but is not new to the USFWS. Prior to her time in the private sector, Kendra worked for five years as the lead biologist at J. N. "Ding" Darling NWR on Sanibel Island, Florida working primarily with wading birds, estuarine resources, prescribed fire and forming partnerships. She also worked for five years on the biology staff at Chincoteague NWR on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. While at Chincoteague, she spent a great deal of time worked extensively with the endangered piping plover and fox squirrel, as well as managing impoundments for waterfowl and shorebirds and implementing the upland management plan. Kendra obtained her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries from Texas A&M and her Master of Science in Ecology from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Kendra and her twelve year old daughter, Kelsee, are looking forward to exploring Idaho, the west coast and gardening in the spring.

The visitor services division of Deer Flat NWR is led by Susan Kain who has worked at the refuge for 9 years. Susan utilizes AmeriCorps members to help her conduct outreach to visitors and the local community. Her most recent hire, Katie Mcvey grew up in rural north central Wisconsin and spent much of her childhood outdoors exploring. A love of nature led her to pursue a Biology degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Currently, she is finishing her Masters in Raptor Biology at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. She spent the last year working as a fellow teaching environmental education at the Foothills Learning Center in Boise, Idaho. Katie has a passion for teaching about the outdoors and knows that educating will always be a big part of her life. As an AmeriCorps member, Katie will be conducting environmental education at the refuge under the direction of Susan. One of Katie's lifelong goals is to have an educational raptor to assist her in teaching about the natural world. Susan will also be hiring an additional AmeriCorps member in January to serve as a volunteer coordinator.

Along with Susan other staff members have held down the fort during the transition in management staff. Administrator officer Barbara Locati keeps everyone on the straight and narrow as she watches the purse strings. She recently hired Daniel Eckstrom through the Student Temporary Employee Program (STEP) in June. Daniel was born at Mercy Medical Center in Nampa in 1990 and graduated from Nampa Christian High School in May of 2008. Currently, Daniel is a sophomore Accounting and Finance major at Boise State University. Daniel's duties consist of assisting Barbara with the budget and financial aspects of Deer Flat.

Barbara also recently hired Martha Puras. Martha works part time at the front desk answering the phone and assisting the staff as needed. Martha was born in Eureka, California but traveled all over with her military family including Japan and Germany. Martha joined the Army and worked as a medtech. She gave birth to her children while in the Army and now spends her time spoiling her three grandchildren.

As you can see the staff at Deer Flat NWR has grown a great deal. If you are ever in the office please stop in and say hello and meet the new faces.

New Board Members for 2010

As a result of the recent email ballot, the following individuals have been selected as 2010 board members for Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge.

Noreen Tripp, President

After retiring from nursing, Noreen moved with her husband, Tony, to Nampa, Idaho. Her favorite thing to do is spend time with her grandchildren. Watching her grandchildren learn about the Refuge and how to care for the Refuge has been a blessing. Noreen also loves camping, visiting all the lovely places in Idaho, sewing and working with other volunteers. She has been a member of the Friends from its beginning. Being part of the Friends of Deer Flat has given Noreen and Tony a way to meet and work with the wonderful people, who share her love of the Refuge.



Noreen enjoying visit to the refuge with granddaughters, Isabella & Josslyn.

Genevieve Johannsen, Vice President

Genevieve has been a resident of Canyon County for 21 years and is a charter member of the Friends group. She grew up in Colorado in a family that enjoyed fishing and hunting and her grandparents were ranchers, so stewardship of natural resources has always been important to her. She is a lifelong member of Girl Scouts of the USA and a certified teacher at the elementary and secondary levels. She is anxious to work through our schools to involve our youth in activities and events at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.



Genevieve Johannsen

Dixie Blome, Secretary

Dixie is an Idaho native, but has also lived in Virginia, Georgia and Alaska. She attended and worked at the University of Idaho, married a law student there, Dick Weeks, who went into military following graduation, and they lived three long years in Alaska at the Army installation, Fort Richardson. They moved with their family to Nampa in 1964. She taught piano, worked in their law office until 1981 when Dick was killed in a car accident. Dixie worked in Boise at Givens McDevitt law firm, and married Bob Blome in 1984. She opened a business in downtown Nampa, and has been very active in civic organizations. Dixie and her husband, Bob, are true neighbors to



Dixie (Rt) displaying Centennial Quilt to be Raffled

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Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)

If you have not heard about the CCP process you will in the very near future as the refuge is currently in the preplanning process. What is a CCP? It is a Comprehensive Conservation Plan...or more simply put, a management plan. You may wonder why we need a management plan for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the answer is simple...because Federal law requires it.

In 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act incorporating an underlying philosophy of "wildlife first" on refuges. The Act provided the Fish and Wildlife Service with guidance for managing refuges to ensure the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats and established six priority public uses on National Wildlife Refuges. These "Big 6", as they are often referred to, includes wildlife observation and photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and environmental education.

The "Big 6" are automatically deemed **appropriate** by the Act to occur on wildlife refuges, if determined **compatible**. All other uses must be first deemed appropriate and then determined to be compatible with the mission of the USFWS and the refuge purpose before they are allowed to occur on a refuge.

The **mission** of the System is "to administer a network of lands and waters for the conservation, management and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The legislated (i.e. determined by law) **purpose of Deer Flat NWR is to provide a refuge and breeding grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife.**

Appropriateness and compatibility are not two words thrown around lightly in the CCP process. Both words have been defined by federal law and have associated policies that each refuge must meet. An appropriate use is one that contributes to fulfilling the refuge purpose(s), the Refuge System mission, or goals or objectives described in a refuge management plan.

A compatibility determination is required for any use that occurs on a refuge. A compatible use is one which, in the sound professional judgment of the Refuge Manager, will not materially interfere with or detract from fulfillment of the Refuge System Mission or refuge purpose(s).

Photo by Diana
Whiting /
Refugenet photo



Comprehensive Conservation Plan (continued)

When preparing a CCP, refuge managers must re-evaluate all general public, recreational, and economic uses proposed or occurring on a refuge for appropriateness and compatibility. Plans are developed by the refuge staff with the help of planners, according to specific Refuge System policy guidelines. Plans are developed in collaboration with other Service personnel, and in consultation with other federal, state, tribal, and local governments. The public will be asked about their concerns and issues early in the process, and will have opportunities to comment on the draft plan before it is finalized.

The CCP process is a time consuming and challenging process. On a wildlife refuge such as Deer Flat NWR the process is also potentially controversial. Many existing uses, both wildlife and non-wildlife dependent, will be evaluated. The public, stakeholders and partners are instrumental in developing the plan and providing constructive brainstorming to help address issues. If you would like to receive further information and updates regarding the refuge CCP please send an email to deerflat@fws.gov or call 208-467-9278.

Save the Date: Deer Flat's 5th annual BioBlitz will be in June 2010

A BioBlitz is a 24-hour rapid survey of biological diversity, and to celebrate this biodiversity we host a public festival. On June 11th and 12th, local scientists, naturalists, and volunteers will comb Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge to find and identify as many different species of plants and animals as possible. Everyone is welcome to attend and lend a

helping hand as we all celebrate the biodiversity at Deer Flat. We are currently in the planning phases. Please contact Katie McVey if you have ideas, resources or want to volunteer for this great event. Look for updates in the future and hope to see you there.



BioBlitz photos copyrighted by Mike Shipman

New Board Members for 2010 (continued)

the Refuge. Upon retirement they developed their own little wildlife habitat acreage. Dixie is also a charter member of the Friends group. She has acted on several committees and most recently was co-chair of the Centennial Celebration committee.

Bob Christensen, Treasurer

Bob is a retired biologist. He worked with the Federal government for over 30 years. He has lived in Caldwell, Idaho for the past 19 years with his wife, Kathy. He has volunteered at Deer Flat National Wildlife for the last 6 years and has especially enjoyed monitoring the bald eagle nesting activities on the Refuge. Bob is a charter member of the Friends and has been the treasurer for the past 2 years. His spare time over the years has been devoted to family activities such as camping, hiking, hunting, river running and viewing wildlife. He is active in church service and has been a scout master in the Boy Scouts of America



Bob banding a duck
at the Refuge

Register Kids Now For Winter Day Camp

Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do bears have space heaters? Do geese eat at restaurants? Then how do they survive the challenges of winter? The refuge invites 2nd, 3rd, and 4th

graders to find out through hands-on educational activities during a one-day camp. The camp will be held from 9 AM – 3:30 PM on January 30th. A snack will be provided, but campers should bring a lunch. The camp is free, but requires pre-registration. To register, please contact the refuge at (208) 467-9278 or deerflat@fws.gov.



Feeding Wintering Birds is Well Underway



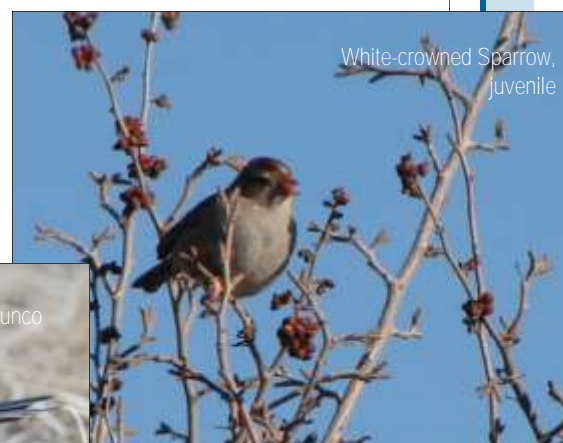
Depending on whom you talk to and their “point of view,” the structure shown here is called the “photo blind,” the “wildlife viewing blind,” the “bird observation blind,” or just “The Coop.” But regardless of what you label it, it is the center of the Friends’ bird feeding operation this winter. The object, of course, is to attract flocks of wintering birds for the enjoyment of refuge visitors. From November through March, bird feeders are placed near the blind to attract wintering birds. Some of the more common birds attracted by the feeders are the house finch, American gold finch, black-capped chickadee, white-crowned sparrow, dark-eyed junco, spotted towhee, mourning dove, and song sparrow.

Early in November, the Friends issued a news release to the local papers asking for volunteers to help feed the birds at the Coop this winter. The news release also solicited donation of funds or bird seed. The response was phenomenal. Ten members of the Friends group responded to help keep seed in the feeders and an additional seven new individuals also volunteered as a direct result of having read the news articles.

Wild Birds Unlimited called and volunteered 400 lbs of bird seed. An anonymous individual dropped off another 100 lbs of seed at the Refuge visitor center. Several individuals sent monetary donations. All of these responses of volunteer hours, seed, and funds are greatly appreciated and are essential to our continuing to have a wintering bird feeding station at the Coop. We especially thank the following entities for their generous contributions of seed (See following page.)



American Goldfinch



White-crowned Sparrow,
juvenile



Dark-eyed Junco

2009

**Thank you to the following for their
generous donations of bird seed:**

Zamzows - Nampa

- - -

Wild Birds Unlimited - Boise

- - -

**Southwest Idaho Birders Association -
Nampa**

- - -

**Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge -
Nampa**

- - -

**Funds contributed to the Donation
Box - Visitors center**

Top Ten Reasons to Buy a Duck Stamp

Since 1934, sales of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly called "Duck Stamps," have generated over \$700 million that have gone to protect 5.3 million acres of habitat as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System for wildlife and future generations of people. All outdoor recreationists who enjoy wildlife and natural landscapes can thank those who have already purchased stamps over the decades!



The Stamp costs just \$15 and it's easy to find—buy one at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, from your local Post Office, or online at <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Stamps.htm>.

Duck Stamps are extremely cost-effective: 98 cents out of every dollar goes *directly* to acquire land for the Refuge System. This \$15 purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing

one can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds.

The funds not only go to refuges, but since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has used a portion of the Stamp revenues to purchase wetland and grassland habitats within the Prairie Pothole Region of the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains. These small wetlands and grassland complexes - commonly referred to as Waterfowl Production Areas or WPAs are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Every unit in this system provides important benefits to migratory bird species, other wildlife, water quality, aquifer replenishment, and the environment in general.

In response to serious downward trends of many species of "prairie" nesting birds, the FWS began purchasing permanent grassland easements to conserve existing habitat for prairie nesting birds.

The purchase of a Stamp is not something that will just benefit ducks. Among scores of other bird species, numerous kinds of shorebirds, long-legged waders, and wetland and grassland songbirds are dependent on habitat derived from Stamp purchases. (Densities of grassland bird species such as Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow and Sedge Wren, are remarkably higher on Refuge System grasslands than on the landscape in general.)

You can say the same about that status of other wildlife – not only birds – and water quality as benefiting from the use of the Stamp. Reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, all flourish through Stamp investments. Water quality is also strengthened.

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Top Ten Reasons to Buy a Duck Stamp (continued)

A Stamp is a “free pass” for an entire year – for a vehicle full of people at all refuges that charge for admission – a real bargain if ever there was one!

Whether or not you're a hunter, you can appreciate the wise balance of activities ascribed through Congressional refuge legislation and Stamp application over the years. All refuges established under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act with an "involute sanctuary" purpose for migratory bird conservation can open up to 40% of the total acreage to migratory bird hunting.

The Duck Stamp is probably the best-kept secret in all of bird conservation. And, by buying and displaying a Stamp you will show that you appreciate what long-term habitat protection for all birds and other wildlife is, and that you care!

An Evening at the Refuge

Have you joined in on a Friends project at the refuge? Purchased a brick or bottle of wine to help fund educational programs? Have you donated time or money to keep the bird feeders filled? Have you participated in a bird count or the BioBlitz at the refuge? Are you looking for a local volunteer project?

Join the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge for an ***Evening at the Refuge***. Come meet other like minded members of the community, people who share a love of nature and our local Refuge.

The evening will start at 6:30 p.m. and will include a slide program that shows the many seasons of the Refuge. Everyone is asked to bring a homemade dessert to share along with the recipe to exchange with other visitors.



Girl Birding by Mike Morrison



Sunset at the Refuge by Denise Hughes

Now Available

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Limited Edition Centennial Wines

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Type	Price	Qty
<i>Shorebird Chardonnay</i>	\$16	
<i>Mallard Merlot</i>	\$20	
Subtotal		
Case Discount (12 bottles +)	-10%	
Tax	+6%	
Total		

Payment Method:

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check
- ☐ Credit Card
 - ☐ Visa
 - ☐ Mastercard
 - ☐ American Express
 - ☐ Discover

Please Return this form, along with
payment and/or payment
information, to:

Bitner Vineyards
c/o Deer Flat Wines
16645 Plum Road
Caldwell, ID 83607
208-899-7648

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

CCV#: _____

HELP COMMEMERATE DEER FLAT CENTENNIAL

Wines are available at Bitner Vineyards, 16645 Plum Road, Caldwell, Idaho 83607
Weekends - Friday, Saturday, Sunday 12 - 5 p.m.

Directions:

From Boise: I-84 to Exit 33A to Highway 55 (Karcher Road)

From Caldwell: I-84 to Exit 28, go south on 10th Street to Highway 55 (Karcher Road), turn right

Once on Highway 55, go west and turn right on Hoskins Road. Continue to Plum Road and turn right.
Go up and over the hill and you will see the Bitner Vineyards sign.

It's Time to renew your Membership

2010 is upon us, so **it's time to renew your membership**. Your gift is critical to our ongoing work to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, and is tax deductible. With your help, we can fund projects like the wildlife viewing blind and help to educate the people of the Treasure Valley to the importance of the refuge.

Thank you for caring to support your values with your money. Please continue your advocacy by renewing your membership today. We are strong and successful thanks to your support!!

For your convenience, there is a renewal form below. Our current members do so much more for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge than provide necessary financial support. FDFWR's credibility is greatly enhanced when we can point to **YOU** - a vital and growing membership from all walks of life from all over Idaho.

Be a Friend! Join Today!

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone

Email



Winter Ice at Lake Lowell

Annual Membership Categories

Owl (Senior & Student)	\$10
Deer (Individual)	\$15
Fox (Family)	\$25
Osprey	\$50
Eagle	\$100
Goldeneye	\$500

All contributions are tax deductible

Please print this page and return with a
check payable to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046



FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE

13751 Upper Embankment
Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

Executive Board:

President - Noreen Tripp
(468-0402)

Vice President - Genevieve
Johannsen (467-7515)

Secretary - Dixie Blome
(466-2148)

Treasurer - Bob
Christensen (454-2518)

Newsletter - Denise Hughes
(850-5885)

We are on the web at:
[www.fws.gov/deerflat/
friends.htm](http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/friends.htm)

To preserves and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

The Grebe is published four times a year — look for the next issue in March 2010

Lecture Series Programs

January 12th – Salmon: Swimming an Upstream Battle

Gain insight into the amazing biology of salmon and their fight for survival. Learn how salmon play a key role in the economy, ecology, and culture of the local landscape. Dave Cannamela, MK Nature Center, Idaho

February 9th – Turn Kitchen & Yard Waste into "Black Gold"

Learn how to reduce waste and improve your garden's soil through home composting. Even if you don't have a yard, learn how to compost with worms, a great option for apartment dwellers and non-gardeners alike! Master Composter from Foothills Learning Center, City of Boise Parks and Recreation

March 9th – Every Butte has a Story



Did you know Lizard Butte in Marsing and Castle Rock in Boise are old volcanoes? Join Craig White, Department of Geosciences, Boise State University for a presentation on local geology and volcanology.

Photo by Mark Lisac,
Refugenet

